

Message Text

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ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 L-02 EUR-12 RSC-01 /025 W

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R 050355Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8964

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

CSAF WASHDC

ADC ENT AFB COLO

14TH AEROF ENT AFB COLO

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 3773

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MAR, NZ

SUBJECT: CIVILIAN OPERATION OF BAKER NUNN STATIONS

REF: STATE 264607

1. EMBOFF INFORMALLY DISCUSSED SUBSTANCE REFTEL WITH ALLAN DOYLE, ASSISTANT HEAD, MFA LEGAL DIVISION, DECEMBER 5. DOYLE SEES NO GNZ OBJECTIONS TO USE OF CIVILIAN PERSONNEL AT MT. JOHN. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT FULL CHANGE-OVER TO CONTRACTOR PERSONNEL COULD BRING INTO QUESTION THE VALIDITY OF PARTS OF BAKER-NUNN AGREEMENT AND MIGHT RESULT IN GNZ REQUEST TO RENEGOTIATE AGREEMENT.

2. DOYLE DOUBTED THERE ARE ANY NEW ZEALAND FIRMS THAT WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO BID FOR A CONTRACT TO OPERATE MR. JOHN. CIVILIAN OPERATION OF THE STATION, HOWEVER, COULD RENEW INTEREST IN MIXED MANNING.

3. DOYLE WILL BE DISCUSSING PROPOSAL WITH OTHER GNZ PERSONNEL (PARTICULARLY MFA DEFENSE DIVISION HEAD DAN RICHARDS) DURING NEXT WEEK-TEN DAYS AND WILL GIVE EMBASSY MORE DIFINITIVE STATEMENT OF GNZ NOSITION BY MID-DECEMBER.

4. COMMENT. EMBASSY'S ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSED CIVILIAN MANNING OF MT. JOHN PARALLELS DOYLE'S. WE BELIEVE GNZ
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WOULD PREFER TO HAVE CIVILIAN RATHER THAN MILITARY

PERSONNEL RUNNING STATION AND WOULD LIKE VERY MUCH TO
INCLUDE NEW ZEALAND CIVILIANS. MANPOWER, HOWEVER, IS
NOT AVAILABLE IN ANY GREAT QUANTITY. WITH REGARD
TO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU), EMBASSY
BELIEVES GNZ WILL INSIST ON RIGHT TO TAKE JURISDICTION
OVER ALL CIVILIANS INVOLVED IN CRIMINAL CASES. DIRECT
HIRE PERSONNEL WOULD CONTINUE TO RECEIVE BENEFITS OUTLINED
PARA 3 OF MOU, BUT CONTRACT PERSONNEL WOULD BE SUBJECT TO
NEW ZEALAND CUSTOMS, INCOME TAX AND OTHER FINANCIAL
REGULATIONS.
KILLGORE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EMPLOYMENT, PERSONNEL, AIR FORCE, MONITORING FACILITIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974WELLIN03773
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740352-0670
From: WELLINGTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741256/aaaabvyq.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION PM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 264607
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAY 2002 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <20 MAR 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVILIAN OPERATION OF BAKER NUNN STATIONS
TAGS: MARR, NZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005